

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1. (Original) An apparatus for forming a multi fiber optical ferrule comprising:  
a broach having a shaft, a broach comprising a contour formed along its outer periphery and a cut out section extending transverse to the outer periphery to form a cutting surface having a contour; and,  
a carrier positioned under the cutting tool and movable thereunder to guide a work piece along the cutting surface.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the broach may be sharpened by machining the cut out surface.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the contour along the outer periphery is formed by a plurality of plates applied on the shaft.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each of the plurality of plates has a edge profile appropriately selected to form the contour.
- Claims 5-18 (Cancelled).
19. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the broach is generally cylindrical except for the cut out section.
20. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cutting surface has rectangular profiles.
21. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a frame, the frame includes a pair of rails, the carrier moves along the rails.
22. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the broach is monolithic.
23. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the shaft is integral with the broach.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the broach is mounted to the shaft.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a spindle, the plurality of plates are positioned on the spindle.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a bolt, the bolt is attached to the shaft.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the work piece is a blank for a fiber optic ferrule.
28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein a portion of the cutting surface corresponds to a channel for a fiber from a fiber optic cable.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein a portion of the cutting surface corresponds to a channel for receiving a guide pin.

30. (New) A method for machining a multi fiber optical ferrule comprising:

providing a blank for a fiber optic ferrule.

providing a broach having a shaft, a broach comprising a contour formed along its outer periphery and a cut out section extending transverse to the outer periphery to form a cutting surface having the contour;

providing a carrier positioned under the cutting tool and movable thereunder to guide the blank along the cutting surface.

31. (New) The method as in claim 30 further comprising the step of:

moving the carrier under the broach to form the contour in the blank.

32. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein a portion of the contour corresponds to a channel for a fiber in a fiber optic cable.